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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

OCTOBER 27, 1915

The meeting was held in the laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M. President Harper occupied the chair. Eighteen persons were present.

The minutes of the meeting of May 25, 1915, were read and approved.

The following persons were nominated for membership: Prof. Ira D. Cardiff, Pullman, Wash.; Dr. A. L. Gunderson, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn; Mr. John Dreyer, 147 E. 55th St., Brooklyn; Mr. Maturin L. Delafield, 31 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris, France; Miss Ruby Wilber, Sound Beach, Conn.; Miss Freedoling C. Jud, 119 Franklin St., Jersey City, N. J.; and Mrs. E. Scholl, 2650 Marion Ave., New York City.

Mr. Percy Wilson, chairman of the field committee, read a report on the excursion to the pine barrens held September 10 in connection with the Celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the New York Botanical Garden. Mr. Wilson's report showed that three hundred and forty-four (\$344) dollars had been contributed by members of the Club and two hundred and sixty-five dollars and thirty cents (\$265.30) had been expended, leaving a balance of seventy-eight dollars and seventy cents (\$78.70). This report was accepted with a vote of thanks to the field committee for their successful efforts. On a motion by Dr. M. A. Howe the balance of the funds on hand was turned into the general funds of the Club.

Mrs. E. G. Britton, chairman of the program committee, reported that in consequence of suggestion from Dr. Jean Broadhurst and others the committee had deemed it advisable to hold certain meetings of the Club at Columbia University during the coming year, and asked that the committee be authorized to call such meetings at their discretion. The request was granted by a vote of the Club.

The announcement of the death of Mr. Samuel Thorne on July 4, 1915, was read. A committee consisting of Dr. N. L. Britton and the secretary was appointed to draw up suitable resolutions.

The scientific program was then carried out. Dr. Marshall A. Howe spoke on "A Visit to Porto Rico for Collecting Marine Algae," referring to an expedition in June and July of the present year, undertaken as a part of the general natural history survey of this island that is being carried on by the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Museum of Natural History, and the New York Botanical Garden, with financial coöperation of the insular government of Porto Rico. Special attention was given to dredging operations, with Ensenada, on Guanica Harbor, as a base. Specimens were exhibited, particularly of the genus *Caulerpa*, of which nine or more species occur in or near Guanica Harbor. Photographs, also, were shown. A more detailed report of this expedition is published in the Journal of the New York Botanical Garden for October.

Mr. R. S. Williams followed with a paper on "A Species of *Sphagnum* native to the New York Botanical Garden." He said in part: "*Sphagnum palustre* L. or *S. cymbifolium*, as it is more commonly known, is a cosmopolitan species. It has been found at no great distance on both sides of the Botanical Garden but apparently not recorded before from within its limits. The depauperate, dull green specimens, with tallest stems about 4 cm. high, occurred in a rather damp shaded ravine in three very small, separate tufts near stumps or decayed wood.

Some of the specimens, collected October 17, were exhibited, along with other well-developed forms, the most robust and finest in North America coming from the vicinity of Mt. Tacoma, Wash."

B. O. Dodge spoke briefly on the subject "Botanical Observations at Camp Columbia, Bantam, Connecticut." Specimens and photographs of several species of fungi collected in this region were exhibited. Attention was called to a form evidently causing a heart rot of the apple trees. *Polyporus admirabilis* Peck was found growing on living apple trees at a number of different localities. One specimen was eighteen inches in diameter. A specimen of *Amelanchier canadensis* growing on the grounds of Camp Columbia was found to measure nine feet in circumference.

In the absence of Dr. W. A. Murrill, Dr. F. J. Seaver read by title a paper "Preliminary Report of Upper St. Regis Fungi" which is being published in *Mycologia*. The report comprised a list of fungi collected in that region during the last week of August by Dr. Murrill and his associates. Of the three hundred species collected, only twelve were Ascomycetes. Photographs of the region were shown.

Dr. Seaver reported on "An Interesting Case of Girdling." A tulip tree was observed in upper Van Cortlandt Park which had been girdled, apparently by having had a cable passed around its trunk about four feet from the ground. Although the part of the tree below the point of girdling was dead and partially decayed that portion of the tree above the point of girdling, with the exception of the topmost branch, was alive and in apparently good health. It was estimated that the tree had been girdled from five to seven years, since the diameter above the point of girdling was about eight inches greater than that below this point. Photographs of the tree were shown. A more complete account of this interesting case of girdling will be published at some future time.

Dr. N. L. Britton closed the program with a paper on "Porto Rican Sedges."

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

NOVEMBER 9, 1915

The meeting was held in the lecture room of the Department of Botany, Columbia University, at 8:15 P.M. President Harper presided. Nineteen persons were present.

There being no business for consideration, the president introduced Dr. P. A. Rydberg, who read a paper on "The Life Zones in the Rocky Mountain Region." The lecture was illustrated with many colored lantern slides. It will be published in full in the *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden*.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

NOVEMBER 24, 1915

The meeting was held in the Morphological Laboratory of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M., President Harper presiding. Fourteen persons were present.

The minutes of the meetings held October 27 and November 9 were read and approved.

Miss Susan Dixon, 541 E. 78th St., Junior League Hotel, New York City, was nominated for membership by Dr. Stout.

Dr. N. L. Britton presented the following resolutions which were adopted:

WHEREAS: The Torrey Botanical Club has learned with deep regret of the death of Mr. Samuel Thorne, who has been a member of the Club for many years, and who took great interest in the sciences of botany and horticulture, and who was always glad to aid in their advancement,

Resolved: That the Club sincerely regrets the loss of Mr. Thorne, and tenders its sincerest sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

A letter from Hon. Albert Johnson, M.C., relating to the adoption of the Centigrade scale of temperature measurement as the standard in the United States publications, was read. The proposition as outlined in the "revised draft of bill to abolish the Fahrenheit thermometer" was indorsed.

Miss Susan Dixon was then elected to membership in the Club.

The first paper on the announced scientific program, "Cuban Species of the Genus *Pilea*," was read by Dr. N. L. Britton. A large number of specimens of plants belonging to the genus *Pilea* were exhibited by the speaker.

Dr. A. B. Stout followed with a paper on "Induced and Inherited Fasciations." The following brief abstract was furnished by the speaker:

A report was made on the phenomenon of fasciation as it has appeared in certain cultures of *Verbascum Blattaria* and of *Cichorium Intybus* grown at the New York Botanical Garden.

Those in *Verbascum* are evidently induced by the special conditions of growth. The attempts to force the plants as annuals is not fully successful, and of the plants that bloom in the

second year, about thirty per cent show banded stem fasciation with, however, a wide range of variation.

In *Cichorium Intybus* the heredity of fasciations has been studied in two generations of pedigreed plants. From a cross between two fasciated plants and F_1 progeny twelve plants were all fasciated, and of the F_2 generation of eighty-six plants all but eight were fasciated in some degree. The fasciation here is of the grooved stem type, and exhibits a great range of variation.

The concluding number on the program was given by Miss Margaret Slosson, "The Identity of *Trichomanes pyxidiferum* L."

Many specimens and photographs were exhibited in illustrating the characteristics of this species.

Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

DECEMBER 14, 1915

The meeting of December 14, 1915, was held at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Harper presided. Thirty persons were present.

The announced scientific program consisted of an illustrated lecture on "A Trip through Cuba," by Dr. Mel T. Cook.

Adjournment followed.

B. O. DODGE,
Secretary

NEWS ITEMS

"During recent years practically all of the chestnut on Long Island, New York, has been killed by the chestnut blight. The hickories and oaks are now threatened by a similar fate but from a very different and preventable cause, viz., the attack of two species of native insects, the habits and seasonal histories of which and methods of control are known. These methods are simple and inexpensive and their efficiency has been demonstrated. A preliminary survey of Long Island has been undertaken by this department to determine the distribution of these insects as serious enemies of the trees and to give free instructions to interested local owners on practical methods of ending the